

General

Title

Bioethics: percentage of incapacitated patients for whom the existence of advance health directives was investigated.

Source(s)

Quality indicators in critically ill patients. Madrid (Spain): Spanish Society of Intensive and Critical Care and Units Coronary (SEMICYUC); 2011. 185 p.

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain

Clinical Quality Measures: Process

Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to assess the percentage of incapacitated patients for whom the existence of advance health directives was investigated.

Rationale

The aim of intensive care medicine is to provide critical patients with the healthcare that they need, ensuring the quality and safety of care. Intensive care medicine is one of the principal components of modern healthcare systems. There is an increasing demand for this resource, which involves high costs.

The quality of care has gradually come to be the central focus of healthcare, and in recent years patient safety has come to represent one of the key aspects of quality. In the case of intensive care medicine, this interest in quality is even more evident, not only because of its social and economic impact, but also because some of the dimensions involved in the quality of care of critical patients take on greater importance: critical patients are more vulnerable, access to critical care is more limited so efforts to

distribute resources equitably are more important, scant scientific evidence is available, and the efficiency is limited.

Advance health directives (AHD) facilitate respect for the incapacitated patient's wishes. Current legislation establishes and regulates the obligation to incorporate AHD into the decision-making process. It is the physicians' responsibility to explore the existence of AHD in the decision-making process for those patients that cannot express their preferences.

Evidence for Rationale

Lautrette A, Peigne V, Watts J, Souweine B, Azoulay E. Surrogate decision makers for incompetent ICU patients: a European perspective. *Curr Opin Crit Care*. 2008 Dec;14(6):714-9. [PubMed](#)

Ley 41 /2002 Básica reguladora de la autonomía del paciente y de derechos y obligaciones en materia de información y documentación clínica (noviembre 2002). BOE; 2002 Nov 15.

Quality indicators in critically ill patients. Madrid (Spain): Spanish Society of Intensive and Critical Care and Units Coronary (SEMICYUC); 2011. 185 p.

Saralegui Reta I, Monzón Marín JL, Martín MC. Instrucciones previas en Medicina Intensiva. *Med Intensiva*. 2004;28:256-61.

Silveira MJ, Kim SY, Langa KM. Advance directives and outcomes of surrogate decision making before death. *N Engl J Med*. 2010 Apr 1;362(13):1211-8. [PubMed](#)

Tillyard AR. Ethics review: 'living wills' and intensive care--an overview of the American experience. *Crit Care*. 2007;11(4):219. [PubMed](#)

Whetstone LM. Advanced directives and treatment decisions in the intensive care unit. *Crit Care*. 2007;11(4):150. [PubMed](#)

Primary Health Components

Bioethics; advance health directives (AHD)

Denominator Description

Number of incapacitated patients (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

Numerator Description

Number of incapacitated patients for whom the existence of advance health directives (AHD) was investigated (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

A formal consensus procedure, involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, public health and organizational sciences

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

Unspecified

Extent of Measure Testing

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use

Current routine use

Current Use

not defined yet

Application of the Measure in its Current Use

Measurement Setting

Hospital Inpatient

Intensive Care Units

Transition

Type of Care Coordination

Coordination across provider teams/sites

Coordination within a provider team/site

Professionals Involved in Delivery of Health Services

not defined yet

Least Aggregated Level of Services Delivery Addressed

Single Health Care Delivery or Public Health Organizations

Statement of Acceptable Minimum Sample Size

Unspecified

Target Population Age

Age greater than or equal to 18 years

Target Population Gender

Either male or female

National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care

National Quality Strategy Aim

Better Care

National Quality Strategy Priority

Effective Communication and Care Coordination

Person- and Family-centered Care

Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality

Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Health Care Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

End of Life Care

Getting Better

Living with Illness

IOM Domain

Effectiveness

Patient-centeredness

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding Period

Unspecified

Denominator Sampling Frame

Patients associated with provider

Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Clinical Condition

Institutionalization

Denominator Time Window

not defined yet

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of incapacitated patients

Note:

Incapacitated patient: Patient unable to make decisions because of his/her condition.

Population: All incapacitated patients in the critical care department during the period reviewed.

Exclusions

Unspecified

Exclusions/Exceptions

not defined yet

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of incapacitated patients for whom the existence of advance health directives (AHD) was investigated

Note:

Advance health directives: Involves the exploration of AHD that meet the legal requirements for validity.

Other instructions that are not legally regulated should also be taken into consideration (oral instructions, written documents, etc.).

Clinical records should include an explicit statement by the attending physician about whether the existence of AHD has been explored before making decisions regarding incapacitated patients.

Exclusions

Unspecified

Numerator Search Strategy

Institutionalization

Data Source

Electronic health/medical record

Paper medical record

Type of Health State

Does not apply to this measure

Instruments Used and/or Associated with the Measure

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

Measure Specifies Disaggregation

Does not apply to this measure

Scoring

Rate/Proportion

Interpretation of Score

Desired value is a higher score

Allowance for Patient or Population Factors

not defined yet

Standard of Comparison

not defined yet

Prescriptive Standard

Standard: 100%

Evidence for Prescriptive Standard

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Identifying Information

Original Title

Incorporation of advance directives in the decision-making process.

Measure Collection Name

Quality Indicators in Critically Ill Patients

Measure Set Name

Bioethics

Submitter

Spanish Society of Intensive and Critical Care and Units Coronary - Clinical Specialty Collaboration

Developer

Spanish Society of Intensive and Critical Care and Units Coronary - Clinical Specialty Collaboration

Funding Source(s)

Boehringer Laboratories

Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

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Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

Unspecified

Adaptation

This measure was not adapted from another source.

Date of Most Current Version in NQMC

2011 Mar

Measure Maintenance

Unspecified

Date of Next Anticipated Revision

2016 Jul

Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

The measure developer reaffirmed the currency of this measure in May 2016.

Measure Availability

Source available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) from the Spanish Society of Intensive and Critical Care and Units Coronary (SEMICYUC) Web site.

For more information, contact SEMICYUC at Paseo de la Reina Cristina, 36, 4^o D, Madrid, Spain; Phone: +34-91-502-12-13; Fax: +34-91-502-12-14; Web site: www.semicyuc.org ; E-mail: secretaria@semicyuc.org.

NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on March 19, 2014. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 25, 2014.

The information was reaffirmed by the measure developer on May 10, 2016.

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Production

Source(s)

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